

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 RSR-01 /102 W

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R 200946 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6879

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 1700

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, CD, GB, GH, CG, CM, NG

SUBJECT: ROK MISSION TO WEST AFRICA

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN EFFORT TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR ROK ON
KOREAN QUESTION AT UNGA AND TO STRENGTHEN ROK POSITION
IN FACE OF NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, MOFA
WILL SEND OUT SERIES OF MISSIONS, BEGINNING WITH ONE
TO WEST AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ROK AMBASSADOR TO
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA PAK TONG CHIN,
ACCOMPANIED BY LEE CHONG SU OF THE MOFA AFRICA SECTION,
WILL TOUR SIX COUNTRIES IN WEST AFRICA, WITH THE FOLLOWING
ITINERARY: MARCH 22 TO 26, NIGER; MARCH 27 TO 31, GHANA;
APRIL 1 TO 6, GABON; APRIL 6 TO 12, ZAIRE; APRIL 12 TO 15,
CAMEROON; AND APRIL 15 TO 18, CHAD.

2. MAIN PURPOSE OF TRIP WILL BE TO SOLICIT SUPPORT
FOR ROK ON KOREAN QUESTION AT UN. MISSION WILL BE
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DISCUSSING DEVELOPMENTS ON KOREAN PENINSULA AND ECONOMIC
RELATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. THE MISSION IS ONE OF
SEVERAL PLANNED
BY MOFA FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, PARTLY
IN RESPONSE TO THE PROLIFERATION OF SIMILAR NORTH KOREAN
MISSIONS.

3. GHANA WAS VISITED BY THE LAST ROK MISSION TO WEST AFRICA,
WHEN THE ROK RECEIVED A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO ITS REQUEST
TO ESTABLISH A CONSULATE IN ACCRA. HOWEVER, MOFA NOW FEARS
THAT IF A CONSULATE IS ESTABLISHED THE GOG WOULD BE DISPOSED
TO PERMIT NORTH KOREA TO SET UP ITS OWN CONSULATE OR TRADE
MISSION. AMBASSADOR PAK WILL BE SEEKING TO CONVINCE GOG
THAT IT CAN ALLOW THE ROK CONSULATE WITHOUT EXTENDING THE
SAME FAVOR TO THE NORTH. IN ADDITION, MOFA FEELS THAT
GHANA'S CANDIDACY FOR A VICE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNGA MERITS
INCLUSION OF ACCRA IN AMBASSADOR PAK'S ITINERARY.

5. THE MISSION' S VISIT TO CHAD WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE
ROK AMBASSADOR CHONG VISITS FORT LAMY TO PRESENT HIS
CREDENTIALS BUT IS NOT RELATED TO ANY DIFFICULTIES CONNECTED
WITH THE PRESENTATIIION, AS REPORTED IN FORT LAMY' S 0351.

5. ROK TELEVISION STATION MARCH 19 AND VERNACULAR
PRESS MARCH 20 CARRIED FONMIN KIM YONG SHIK' S REMARK AT
MARCH 19 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT ROKG WOULD NOT WITHDRAW
AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON EVEN WITH A NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR
IN RESIDENCE THERE. STATEMENT DID NOT APPEAR IN ENGLISH
LANGUAGE PRESS AND MOFA INFORMS US THAT IT WAS MADE OFF
THE RECOND. ACCORDING TO MOFA, HOWEVER, IT IS A TRUE STATE-
MENT AND SIGNALS THE ABANDONMENT OF THE ROK' S ALLSTEIN
DOCTRINE IN AFRICA. IT MAY THEREFORE HAVE SOME BEARING ON
MISSION' S VISITS TO YAOUNDE AND KINSHASA.

HABIB

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL01700
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730333/aaaaiahk.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971215
Subject: ROK MISSION TO WEST AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, CD, CG, CM, GB, GH, KS, NG
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ACCRA
KINSHASA
LIBREVILLE
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

